

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An epilator apparatus for the removal of hairs comprising:

a tape configured to adhere to hairs before being fed to a plucking zone where the adhered hairs are plucked from skin;
a take-up reel configured to receive the tape downstream of the plucking zone;

a drive motor configured to drive the take-up reel; and

a switch in electrical communication with the drive motor and responsive to the application of the epilator apparatus against skin, such that pressure of the epilator apparatus against the skin activates the switch to activate the drive motor, thereby to drive the take-up reel producing forward movement of the apparatus over the skin;

a pressure roller for applying the tape against the skin;

a deflector positioned in the plucking zone such that the deflector guides the tape away from the skin;

wherein the deflector includes two juxtaposed deflector elements arranged such that the tape is passed between the two deflector elements; and

wherein the two deflector elements are rotatably suspended.

2. – 15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A method of removing hair by means of an epilator apparatus, the method comprising:

placing a tape in contact with skin by application of the epilator apparatus to skin;
adhering hairs to the placed tape;

activating a drive motor, which drives a take-up reel, in response to application of the epilator apparatus against the skin;

feeding the placed tape into a plucking zone of the epilator apparatus;

plucking the adhered hairs from the skin in the plucking zone; and

receiving the tape and plucked hairs on the take-up reel downstream of the plucking zone thereby moving the apparatus forward over the skin;

guiding the tape away from the skin in the plucking zone; and lifting the hairs relative to the skin;

clamping the tape and the lifted hairs together between two deflector elements; and extracting the lifted hairs from the skin; and

rotating the two deflector elements in opposite directions in response to the motion of the tape.

17. – 23. (Cancelled)